



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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Scientists prepare samples for genomic sequencing in South Africa | AP

JAB-O-METER		
TAKE YOUR SHOT		
Del 10:	68,63,925 doses	
Del 11:	81,08,719 doses	
TOTAL:	132,84,644	705
NATIONWIDE		
DEC 10	DEC 11	
Fresh cases	8,503	7,992
Recoveries	7,678	9,265
Deaths	624	393
KARNATAKA		
DEC 10	DEC 11	
Fresh cases	314	320
Recoveries	339	317
Deaths	2	2



OMICRON IS Milder THAN DELTA, S AFRICA DATA SHOWS

Two weeks after the first case, statistics from South African hospitals show the new strain causes milder Covid than Delta

MOST PATIENTS DIDN'T NEED HOSPITAL VISITS

Only about 30% of those hospitalised with Covid in recent weeks have been seriously ill, less than half the rate reported during the first weeks of the country's previous pandemic waves. And Covid patients spent only 2.8 days in the hospital on average, down from eight days. Doctors said even older or vulnerable patients are able to recover at their home in 10-14 days

OMICRON SEVERITY AND VACCINE STATUS

- More than 85% of patients hospitalised in the country's current wave weren't vaccinated, and two-thirds of them were under 40
- The data on Covid fatalities from South Africa, where Omicron is the dominant strain, is also encouraging: Just 3% of hospitalised patients died, compared with 20% from earlier outbreaks

33

INDIA'S OMICRON TALLY ON SATURDAY, AFTER A NEW CASE DETECTED IN DELHI

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VILAYUWAKUDI • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KODIPOLE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • DELHIVERY • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVMOGA • MANGALURU • THIRUPATI • THIRUCHIRAPPALLI • THIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAIYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARRANGAL • TADIPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURGI

EXPRESS READ

Will fully vacate Delhi border by Dec 15: Tikait

Ghaziabad: BKU leader Rakesh Tikait said farmers will fully vacate their protest site on the Delhi border here by December 15 as their first group left for Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh on Saturday.

ED probing assets of PFI in Abu Dhabi

New Delhi: The ED is investigating the "acquisition" of some foreign assets, including a bar-cum-restaurant in Abu Dhabi, by Popular Front of India leaders after recent raids against its members in Kerala.

IAF testfires indigenous anti-tank missile

Bhubaneswar: DRDO and Indian Air Force flight tested helicopter-launched Stand-off Anti-Tank missile from Pokhran on Saturday. The indigenous developed air-to-surface missile was test fired against a static target.



THE FINAL SALUTE

Officers from the IAF and paramilitary forces pay their last respects to Lance Naik Boggala Sai Teja in Bengaluru on Saturday. He lost his life in the helicopter crash in Coonoor on December 8, along with CDS Gen Bipin Rawat | SHANMUGA | REPORT: PT

Govt goes slow on legislative biz after farm bills volte-face

MANISH ANAND @New Delhi

HAVING burnt its fingers with hurried legislation on farm laws, the government appears to be going slow on fresh bills, with just nine days left in the Winter session of Parliament.

During the commencement of the session, the government had unveiled plans to seek Parliamentary nod for a total of 29 bills, including three previously introduced in the lower House.

The much-talked about cryptocurrency bill isn't on the legisla-

tive agenda this week, and the Lok Sabha bulletin shows only five bills to be taken up.

These are the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, the Mediation Bill, the National Anti-Doping Bill, and the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accounts and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill.

The Lok Sabha has so far passed six legislative proposals out of 29 after the passage of the Farm Repeal Bill gave a stormy

start to the Winter session. The ruckus in Rajya Sabha continues with Opposition MPs pressing for revocation of the suspension of 13 MPs and the government adamant on an apology from them.

The current session, set to end on December 23, shows no sign of legislative hurriedness seen in previous sessions.

The absence of Opposition MPs in Parliament could also be one of the reasons why the government is not keen in pushing its legislative agenda.

Govt to appoint 15,000 school teachers soon

ENS@ Bengaluru

THE state government is recruiting 15,000 primary school teachers soon to overcome a severe shortage at government schools across the state, said Primary and Secondary Education Minister BC Nagesh on Saturday.

Taking to social media, he said 10,000 teachers will be recruited for classes 6 to 8, while another 5,000 educators will be hired especially for

the Kalyana-Karnataka region. He said a notification on the appointment process will be released next week.

The government had appointed 23,000 guest teachers. The new recruitments are in addition to the appointment of 4,000 guest teachers that was announced recently.

The state has been struggling to cope with the sudden rush of students from private schools to government-run ones after the onset of Covid.

Maradona watch turns up in Assam

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Gowahati

ALLEGEDLY stolen in Dubai, the late Diego Maradona's heritage Hublot watch has been found in Assam's Sivasagar after an international effort by police, authorities said.

A 37-year-old man has been arrested over the robbery. Sivasagar's Superintendent of Police Rakesh Roushan told this newspaper that the watch — specially-made with the football legend's jersey No. 10 and



signature inscribed on it — costs ₹13 lakh - ₹14 lakh.

"The Dubai Police had shared information with an Indian federal law enforcement agency

that one Wazid Hussein, son of Kalyan Hussein and resident of Sivasagar in Assam, had stolen some belongings of Maradona from his Dubai residence," Roushan said.

Police said Hussein had worked as domestic help at the Dubai home of Maradona, who died in November last year.

Hussein, however, denied stealing the watch or even working for Maradona. He told the police the expensive item was a gift from a Nigerian friend.

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WITH THIS ISSUE

THE BODY SHOP

The pandemic-driven digital revolution led to the launch of several AI-enabled fitness products including the virtual personal trainer. The Omicron threat just upped the ante

PLUS 12 PAGES

MAGAZINE

TORNADO

OUTBREAK LASHES U.S.

Seventy feared dead after as many as 30 tornadoes strike several US states | PTI

Savlon Swasth India

WEAR A MASK. PROTECT YOURSELF, PROTECT YOUR KID'S CHILDHOOD.

Wearing a mask outdoors is more than just a good hygienic habit. It is a way to protect ourselves and our children from diseases like Covid. If we wear masks, and encourage our kids to do the same, we reduce the chances of spreading germs. And by doing so we bring our kids closer to once again enjoying a happy and healthy childhood. After all, with good hygiene comes good health.

WEAR YOUR MASK

CORRECTLY OVER YOUR NOSE & MOUTH

CONTINUOUSLY WHEN OUTDOORS

www.licindia.in

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2. Open a DEMAT account (if you do not have one)

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Contact your LIC Agent for any assistance.

To open a DEMAT account, visit either of these websites for registered Depository Participants (DP):

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You must provide the following to the DP to open your DEMAT account:

- Recent photograph
- PAN Card
- Address proof
- Cancelled cheque

The DP may also seek further information.

Contact your banker or broker for any assistance.

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*Details of proposed IPO will be intimated once finalised.

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